



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

**MAR 23 2015**

The Honorable Pete Ricketts  
Governor of Nebraska  
P.O. Box 94848  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848

Dear Governor Ricketts:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking the support of the state of Nebraska in proposing the Beatrice FMGP site, EPA ID# NEN000704084, located in Beatrice, Nebraska, on the National Priorities List. The NPL is a list compiled by the EPA, pursuant to Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 9605, of uncontrolled hazardous substance releases that are priorities for long-term remedial evaluation and response. It is the EPA's policy to determine the state's position on a potential listing before proposing the listing. With this letter, the EPA is seeking the written concurrence of the governor of Nebraska on adding this site to the NPL.

The site is a former manufactured gas plant which was operated by a series of owners from 1907 to 1929. Waste products from the manufactured gas process include coal tar and other coal-tar-related contaminants which are present in soil, sediment and groundwater at the site. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons including benzo(a)pyrene and naphthalene, volatile organic compounds including benzene and other hazardous wastes, pollutants or contaminants from manufactured gas plant related processes have been detected on-site above acceptable health-based levels. Manufactured gas plant related chemicals are discharging to the Big Blue River, as evidenced by sediment toxicity tests. Non-aqueous phase liquid is present in significant quantities in soil and groundwater and is an ongoing source of contamination to groundwater sediment, and to the Big Blue River. All above-grade former manufactured gas plant related structures have been removed from the site. One building foundation and a circular gas holder base are currently present on the site. The below ground gas holder structure straddles both the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and city owned portions of the site.

A removal action will be performed at the site. The preferred removal action alternative is detailed in the May 2014 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Removal Alternatives Evaluation Report. The removal action will consist of excavation and disposal of contaminated shallow soil across the majority of the site, excavation and disposal of the below ground gas holder contents and placement of a reactive sediment cap. The excavated areas will be backfilled with clean fill within two feet of final grade. The remaining two feet will be backfilled using low-permeability clay-rich soil and seeded. Activity and use limitations further enhancing the existing use restrictions pursuant to the property deed including restrictions on groundwater usage, will be recorded for the property with an environmental covenant pursuant to the Nebraska Uniform Environmental Covenants Act.

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0400 Superfund



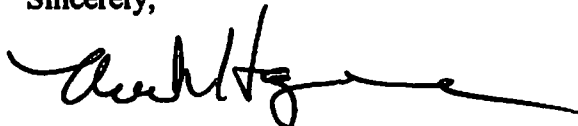
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The EPA is committed to working cooperatively with the state and local community throughout the listing and subsequent Superfund cleanup process to ensure that the EPA's actions are conducted in an open and transparent manner. Because non-aqueous phase liquid will remain in the groundwater following completion of the removal action and will be an ongoing source of contamination, the EPA plans to propose this site to the NPL, and then negotiate with potentially responsible parties for the performance of remedial activities, including investigation, design, remedial action, and long term maintenance or remedial actions selected for the site.

The EPA is requesting a written response to this letter from the governor's office or from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality within 30 days of receipt of this letter. The EPA has set this date to allow adequate time to meet the proposed Federal Register rule schedule. The response letter should indicate whether Nebraska supports placement of the site on the NPL. If the state does not support listing, Nebraska should describe an alternative approach to address the site and associated release(s). While we anticipate state support for this listing, if a response is not received within 30 days of receipt of this letter, the EPA will proceed with the listing decision. The EPA plans to share information with the community regarding the state's position, which may include posting the information on the internet. The EPA will invite the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to participate in any community meetings during the listing process.

We at the EPA greatly value the insights and perspectives of our state partners in protecting human health and the environment, and we look forward to hearing from you on this important matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (913) 551-7546 or have your staff contact Robert Jackson, Acting Superfund Division Director, at (913) 551-7952.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Hague', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Hague  
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Mr. Jim Macy, NDEQ  
Mr. Robert W. Jackson, EPA  
Mr. James Woolford, EPA